

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AF-10 NRC-07 ACDA-12  
IO-14 EB-08 OES-07 SOE-02 DOE-15 CEQ-01 AID-05  
COME-00 HA-05 HEW-06 AGR-05 INT-05 CTME-00 /203 W  
-----126909 191815Z /72

R 191242Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2317  
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY  
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA  
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
AMEMBASSY DACCA  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY KABUL  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL MADRAS  
O/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2643  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
CINCPAC

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 9522

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PEPR, IN  
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER DESAI'S PRESS CONFERENCE

1. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE 17, PRIME MINISTER DESAI  
ANSWERED QUESTIONS ON INDO-US RELATIONS, OUTSIDE INTER-  
FERENCE IN AFRICA, AFGHANISTAN, IRAN, THE SOVIET UNION,  
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AND CHINA.

2. UNITED STATES. IN ADDITION TO THE NUCLEAR ISSUE  
(SEPTEL), DESAI SAID IN GENERAL THAT EVERYWHERE IN THE  
US HE FOUND GOOD FEELING FOR INDIA AND NO HOSTILITY  
OF ANY KIND. ASKED IF HE WOULD RECONSIDER THE BAN ON  
EXPORTING RHESUS MONKEYS BECAUSE OF USG CONCERNS, THE

PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT PRESIDENT CARTER " HAD MADE A LITTLE REFERENCE TO IT AND HE WAS SATISFIED WITH WHAT I TOLD HIMM" HE ADVISED THE QUESTIONER NOT TO RAKE UP THE ISSUE BECAUSE " IT IS FINISHED." ON ECONOMIC AID, DESAI SAID HE DID NOT GO TO THE US TO ASK FOR ANY AID BUT THAT " IF AID IS GIVEN, CERTAINLY WE ARE THANKFUL." IF THE US OFFERS "SUITABLE" AID, INDIA WILL TAKE IT. DESAI SAID THAT PRESIDENT CARTER DID NOT RAISE THE ISSUE OF IBM AND COCA COLA, ALTHOUGH "SOME BUSINESSMEN" DID.

3. AFRICA AND OUTSIDE INTERFERECE: DESAI SAID THAT IF SOME COUNTRY INVITES OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE" I CANNOT SAY THAT HE HAS DONE SOMETHING WRONG" BUT IT IS BETTER THAT AFRICAN PROBLEMS BE SOLVED "MORE BY THE OAU THAN OUTSIDE AGENCIES" BECAUSE OUTSIDE INVOLVEMENT CREATES MORE COMPLICATIONS. DESAI WAS ASKED IF HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT CARTER WHAT ROLE INDIA COULD PLAY IN THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE TWO BIG POWERS FOR SPHERES OF INFLUENCE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE REPLIED, "CAN I DO IT PUBLICLY? THEN I WILL BE STUPID. I DO NOT WANT TO GO INTO THAT CATEGORY." THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO CATEGORICALLY REJECTED A QUESTIONER'S CLAIM THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD SAID THAT INDIA WOULD GIVE MILITARY AID TO AFRICA. HE SAID, "I DO NOT THINK MY FOREIGN MINISTER CAN EVER SAY THAT... I DO NOT BELIEVE IT." (FYI: THE QUESTIONER PROBABLY WAS REFERRING TO PRESS REPORTS THAT THE MINISTER FOR STATE FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SAMARENDRA KUNDU, HAD SAID IN CALCUTTA JUNE 16 THAT IF NECESSARY INDIA WOULD GIVE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO LIBERATION FORCES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. END FYI.)

4. AFGHANISTAN AND IRAN. DESAI REJECTED A QUESTIONER'S IMPLICATION THAT THERE WAS "STRESS BETWEEN INDIA AND IRAN OVER AFGHANISTAN. " THE APPRECIATION OF INDIA AND IRAN OF DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN ARE THE SAME," HE SAID. PUSHED ON THIS, HE SAID "THERE IS NOT MUCH DIFFERENCE" (OF VIEW). ASKED IF HE WOULD USE HIS GOOD OFFICES WITH THE SHAH OVER HUMAN RIGHT "INTRUSIONS" IN IRAN, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE WAS DOING WHATEVER "I HAVE TO DO AND WHAT I CAN DO" BUT THAT IT COULD NOT BE DISCUSSED IN PUBLIC OR ELSE " IT WILL FAIL." HE ADDED THAT THE SHAH "HIMSELF TOLD ME HE IS LIBERALIZING THE REGIME." IN A SHARP EXCHANGE, DESAI ASKED THE QUESTIONER WHY HE WAS INTERFERING IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND SAID" IT IS TOO MUCH TO TALK OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS;" FIRST OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE TO BE ASSURED PROPERLY "IN OUR OWN COUNTRY."

5. SOVIET UNION. THE PRIME MINISTER DENIED THAT THERE WAS ANY ""SECRET AGREEMENT" WITH THE SOVIET UNION ON THE SUPPLY OF HEAVY WATER WHICH BANNED PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS. THE "CONDITION IS THERE," HE SAID, BUT THERE IS NO SECRECY ABOUT IT. ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE SOVIET PROPOSALS AT THE SSOD, DESAI SAID THAT "MY COMMENT IS MY (UN) SPEECH."

6. CHINA, PAKISTAN AND KASHMIR: DISCUSSING THAT PART OF KASHMIR "CEDED" TO CHINA BY PAKISTAN (FOR THE KORAKORAM HIGHWAY), THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT WHEN DISCUSSIONS TAKE PLACE, THE ISSUE WILL CERTAINLY BE TAKEN UP BUT THAT HE DID NOT INTEND TO MAKE A FORMAL PROTEST BECAUSE IT WOULD NOT BE VERY USEFUL. DESAI CHARACTERIZED AS "THEIR UNCLASSIFIED

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OLD STAND" CHINESE SUPPORT FOR PAKISTAN ON KASHMIR. ON THE BORDER DISPUTE, DESAI TOOK ISSUE WITH A QUESTIONER WHO SAID THAT THE INDIAN PARLIAMENT HAD PLEDGED TO RECOVER THE LAND FROM CHINA " BY ARMED STRUGGLE ALSO." HE SAID THAT THE PARLIAMENT HAD NEITHER SAID NOR IMPLIED THAT (THE USE OF FORCE) BUT HE STOOD BY THE PLEDGE FOR RECOVERY OF THE LAND.  
BLOOD

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014